

POI

The other level *pointblank* at the inventing of causes and axioms. *Bacon.*

Unless it be the cannon ball,  
That shot it's air *pointblank* upright,  
Was born to that prodigious height,  
That learn'd philo'sophers maintain,  
It ne'er came back. *Hudibras, p. ii.*

The faculties that were given us for the glory of our matter,  
are turned *pointblank* against the intention of them: *L'Estr.*  
Eftius declares, that although all the schoolmen were for  
Latria to be given to the cross, yet that it is *pointblank* against  
the definition of the council of Nice. *Stillingfleet.*

23. *Point de vue*; exact or exactly in the point of view.  
Every thing about you should demonstrate a careles defo-  
lation; but you are rather *point de vue* in your accoutrements,  
as loving yourself, than the lover of another. *Shakefp.*

I will baffle Sir Toby, I will wash off gross acquaintance,  
I will be *point de vue* the very man. *Shakefp.*

Men's behaviour should be like their apparel, not too  
straight or *point de vue*, but free for exercise. *Bacon.*

To *POINT*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To sharpen; to forge or grind to a point.

The princes of Germany had but a dull fear of the great-  
ness of Spain; now that fear is sharpened and *pointed*, by  
the Spaniards late enterprizes upon the Palatinate. *Bacon.*

Part-new grind the blunted ax, and *point* the dart. *Dryd.*

What help will all my heavy friends afford,  
When to my breast I lift the *pointed* sword. *Dryden.*

The two pinnæ stand upon either side, like the wings in the  
petasus of a Mercury, but rise much higher, and are  
more *pointed*. *Addison on Italy.*

Some on *pointed* wood

Transfix'd the fragments, some prepar'd the food. *Pope.*

2. To direct towards an object, by way of forcing it on the  
notice.

Alas to make me  
A fixed figure, for the hand of scorn  
To *point* his slow unmeaning finger at. *Shakefp. Othello.*

Mount Hermon, yonder sea, each place behold  
As I *point*. *Milton.*

3. To direct the eye or notice.

Whoever should be guided through his battles by Mi-  
nerva, and *pointed* to every scene of them, would see nothing  
but subjects of surprize. *Pope.*

4. To show as by directing the finger.

From the great sea, you shall *point* out for you mount Hor.  
*Numb. xxxiv. 7.*

It will become us, as rational creatures, to follow the di-  
rection of nature, where it seems to *point* us out the way. *Locke.*

I shall do justice to those who have distinguished them-  
selves in learning, and *point* out their beauties. *Addison.*

Is not the elder  
By nature *pointed* out for preference? *Rousse.*

5. [*Pointer*, Fr.] To direct towards a place: as, the cannon  
were *pointed* against the fort.

6. To distinguish by stops or points.

To *POINT*. *v. n.*

1. To note with the finger; to force upon the notice, by di-  
recting the finger towards it. With *at* commonly, sometimes  
to before the thing indigited.

Now must the world *point at* poor Catharine,  
And say, lo! there is mad Petruchio's wife. *Shakefp.*

Sometimes we use one finger only, as in *pointing at* any  
thing. *Ray on the Creation.*

Who fortune's fault upon the poor can throw,  
*Point at* the tatter'd coat and ragged shoe. *Dryden.*

Rouse up for flame! our brothers of Pharfalla  
*Point at* their wounds, and cry aloud to battle. *Addison.*

2. To indicate as dogs do to sportmen.

Fond the Jews are of their method of *pointing*. *Forbes.*

3. To indicate as dogs do to sportmen.

The subtle dog scow'rs with sagacious nose,  
Now the warm scent allures the covey near,  
He treads with caution, and he *points* with fear. *Gay.*

4. To show.

To *point* at what time the balance of power was most  
equally held between their lords and commons in Rome,  
would perhaps admit a controversy. *Swift.*

POINTED. *adj.* or *participle*. [from *point*.]

1. Sharp; having a sharp point or pic.

Who now reads Cowley? if he pleases, yet  
His moral pleases, not his *pointed* wit; *Pope.*

A *pointed* flinty rock, all bare and black,  
Grew gibbous from behind. *Dryden.*

2. Epigrammatical; abounding in conceits.

POINTEDLY. *adv.* [from *pointed*.] In a pointed manner.

The copiousness of his wit was such, that he often writ  
too *pointedly* for his subject. *Dryden.*

POINTEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *pointed*.]

1. Sharpness; pick'dness with asperity.

The vicious language is vast and gaping, swelling and ir-  
regular; when it contends to be high, full of rock, moun-  
tain and *pointedness*. *Benj. Johnson's Discovery.*

POI

2. Epigrammatical smartness.

Like Horace, you only expose the follies of men; and in  
this excel him, that you add *pointedness* of thought. *Dryden.*

POINTEL. *n. f.* Any thing on a point.

These *pointes* or *pointels* are, for the most part, little balls,  
set at the top of a slender stalk, which they can move every  
way at pleasure. *Derham's Physico-Theology.*

POINTER. *n. f.* [from *point*.]

1. Any thing that points.

I ought to tell him what are the wheels, springs, pointer,  
hammer and bell whereby a clock gives notice of the time.  
*Watt.*

2. A dog that points out the game to sportmen.

The well taught *pointer* leads the way,  
The scent grows warm; he stops, he springs his prey. *Gay.*

POINTINGSTOCK. *n. f.* [pointing and stock.] Something made  
the object of ridicule.

I, his forlorn dutchels,  
Was made a wonder and a *pointingstock*  
To every idle rascal follower. *Shakefp. Henry VI.*

POINTLESS. *adj.* [from *point*.] Blunt; not sharp; obtuse.

Lay that *pointless* clergy-weapon by,  
And to the laws, your sword of justice, fly. *Dryden.*

POISON. *n. f.* [poison, Fr.] That which destroys or injures  
life by a small quantity, and by means not obvious to the  
senses; venom.

The tongue is an unruly evil, full of deadly *poison*. *Ja.*

Themselves were first to do the ill,  
E'er they thereof the knowledge could attain;  
Like him that knew not *poison's* power to kill,  
Until, by tasting it, himself was slain. *Davies.*

One gives another a cup of *poison*, but at the same time  
tells him it is a cordial, and so he drinks it off and dies. *South.*

To *POISON*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To infect with poison.

Envy is a lawless enemy, against whom *poisoned* arrows  
may be used. *Anonymous.*

2. To attack, injure or kill by poison given.

He was so discouraged, that he *poisoned* himself and died.  
*2 Mac. x. 13.*

3. To corrupt; to taint.

The other messenger,  
Whose welcome I perceiv'd, had *poison'd* mine. *Shakefp.*

Hast thou not  
With thy false arts *poison'd* his people's loyalty? *Rousse.*

POISON-TREE. *n. f.* [*toxicodendron*.] A plant. The flower  
consists of five leaves, which are placed orbicularly, and ex-  
pand in form of a rose, out of whose flower cup rises the  
pointal, which afterwards becomes a roundish, dry, and for  
the most part a furrow'd fruit, in which is contained one  
compressed seed. *Miller.*

POISONER. *n. f.* [from *poison*.]

1. One who poisons.

I must be the *poisoner*  
Of good Polixenes. *Shakefp.*

So many mischiefs were in one combin'd;  
So much one single *pois'ner* cost mankind. *Dryden.*

2. A corrupter.

Wretches who live upon other men's sins, the common  
*poisoners* of youth, getting their very bread by the damnation  
of souls. *South's Sermons.*

POISONOUS. *adj.* [from *poison*.] Venomous; having the qua-  
lities of poison.

These cold ways,  
That seem like prudent helps, are very *poisonous*,  
Where the disease is violent. *Shakefp. Coriolanus.*

Not firius shoots a fiercer flame,  
When with his *pois'ous* breath he blasts the sky. *Dryden.*

A lake, that has no fresh water running into it, will, by  
heat and its stagnation, turn into a stinking rotten puddle,  
sending forth noxious and *poisonous* steams. *Cheyne.*

POISONOUSLY. *adv.* [from *poisonous*.] Venomously.

Men more easily pardon ill things done, than ill things  
said; such a peculiar rancour and venom do they leave be-  
hind in men's minds, and so much more *poisonously* and inecu-  
rably does the serpent bite with his tongue than his teeth.  
*South's Sermons.*

POISONOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *poisonous*.] The quality of being  
poisonous; venomousness.

POITREL. *n. f.* [*poitrel*, *pairrine*, Fr. *pettorale*, Italian; *petto-  
rale*, Lat.]

1. Armour for the breast of a horse.

2. A graving tool.

POIZE. *n. f.* [*poize*, French.]

1. Weight; force of any thing tending to the center.

He fell, as an huge rockie cliff,  
Whose false foundation, waves have wash'd away  
With dreadful *poize*, is from the main land rent. *F. Queen.*

When I have suit,  
It shall be full of *poize* and difficulty,  
And fearful to be granted. *Shakefp. Othello.*

2. Balance;

POL

2. Balance; equipoize; equilibrium.

To do't at peril of your soul,  
Were equal *poize* of sin and charity. *Shakefp.*

Where an equal *poize* of hope and fear  
Does arbitrate th' event, my nature is  
That I incline to hope. *Milton.*

The particles that formed the earth, must convene from all  
quarters towards the middle, which would make the whole  
compound to rest in a *poize*. *Bentley's Sermons.*

3. A regulating power.

Men of an unbounded imagination often want the *poize* of  
judgment. *Dryden.*

To *POIZE*. *v. a.* [*pozer*, French.]

1. To balance; to hold or place in equiponderance.

How nice to couch? how all her speeches *poized* be:  
A nymph thus turn'd, but mended in translation. *Sidney.*

As the sands  
Of Barca or Cyrene's torrid soil,  
Levy'd to hide with warring winds, and *poize*  
Their lighter wings. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. ii.*

Nor yet was earth suspended in the sky,  
Nor *poiz'd* did on her own foundation lie. *Dryden.*

Our nation with united int'rest blest,  
Nor now content to *poize*, shall fly the rest. *Dryden.*

Where could they find another form'd to fit,  
To *poize* with solid sense a sprightly wit? *Dryden.*

Th' all-perfect mind  
That *poiz'd*, impels and rules the steady whole. *Thomson.*

2. To be equiponderant to.

If the balance of our lives had not one scale of reason to  
*poize* another of sensuality, the balancess of our natures would  
conduct us to preposterous conclusions. *Shakefp. Othello.*

3. To weigh.

We *poizing* us in her defective scale  
Shall weigh thee to the beam. *Shakespeare.*

He cannot sincerely consider the strength, *poize* the weight  
and discern the evidence of the clearest arguments, where  
they would conclude against his desires. *South's Sermons.*

4. To oppress with weight.

I'll strive, with troubl'd thoughts, to take a nap,  
Left leaden slumber *poize* me down to-morrow,  
When I should mount with wings of victory. *Shakefp.*

POKE. *n. f.* [*pocca*, Sax. *peche*, Fr.] A pocket; a small  
bag.

I will not buy a pig in a *poke*.  
She suddenly unties the *poke*,  
Which out of it sent such a smoke,  
As ready was them all to choke,  
So grievous was the pother. *Dryden's Nymphid.*

My correspondent writes against master's gowns and *poke*  
sleeves. *Spectator, N° 619.*

To *POKE*. *v. a.* [*poka*, Swedish.] To feel in the dark; to  
search any thing with a long instrument.

If these presumed eyes be clipped off, they will make use  
of their protrusions or horns, and *poke* out their way as  
before. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*

POKER. *n. f.* [from *poke*.] The iron bar with which men stir  
the fire.

With *poker* fiery red  
Crack the stones, and melt the lead. *Swift.*

If the *poker* be out of the way, stir the fire with the  
tongs. *Swift's Rules to Servants.*

POLAR. *adj.* [*polaire*, Fr. from *pole*.] Found near the pole;  
lying near the pole; issuing from the pole.

As when two *polar* winds, blowing adverse  
Upon the Cronian sea, together drive  
Mountains of ice. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*

I doubt  
If any suffer on the *polar* coast,  
The rage of Arctos, and eternal frost. *Prior.*

POLARITY. *n. f.* [from *polar*.] Tendency to the pole.

This *polarity* from refrigeration, upon extremity and defect  
of a loadstone, might touch a needle any where. *Brown.*

POLARY. *adj.* [*polaris*, Lat.] Tending to the pole; having a  
direction towards the poles.

Irons, heated red hot, and cooled in the meridian from  
North to South, contract a *polary* power. *Brown.*

POLE. *n. f.* [*polus*, Lat. *pole*, Fr.]

1. The extremity of the axis of the earth; either of the points  
on which the world turns.

From the centre thrice to the utmost *pole*. *Milton.*

From *pole* to *pole*  
The fork lightning flashes, the roaring thunders roll. *Dry.*

2. [*Pole*, Sax. *pāl*, *pau*, Fr. *pāl*, Italian, and Spanish; *palus*,  
Lat.] A long staff.

A long *pole*, struck upon gravel in the bottom of the wa-  
ter, maketh a found. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

If after some distinguish'd leap,  
He drops his *pole*, and seems to slip;

POL

Straight gath'ring all his active strength,  
He rises higher. *Prior.*

He ordered to arm long *poles* with sharp hooks, wherewith  
they took hold of the tackling which held the mainyard to the  
mast, then rowing the ship, they cut the tackling, and brought  
the mainyard by the board. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

3. A tall piece of timber erected.

Wither'd is the garland of the war,  
The soldier's *pole* is fall'n. *Shakefp. Ant. and Cleop.*

Live to be the show and gaze o' th' time,  
We'll have thee as our rarer monsters are  
Painted upon a *pole*, and underwit,  
Here may you see the tyrant. *Shakefp.*

4. A measure of length containing five yards and a half.

This ordinance of tithing them by the *pole* is not only fit  
for the gentlemen, but also the noblemen. *Spenser.*

Every *pole* square of mud, twelve inches deep, is worth  
six pence a *pole* to fling out. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

5. An instrument of measuring.

A peer of the realm and a counsellor of state are not to be  
measured by the common yard, but by the *pole* of special  
grace. *Bacon.*

To *POLE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To furnish with poles.

Begin not to *pole* your hops. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

POLEAXE. *n. f.* [*pole* and *axe*.] An axe fixed to a long pole.

To beat religion into the brains with a *poleaxe*, is to offer  
victims of human blood. *Havel's England's Tears.*

One hung a *poleaxe* at his saddle bow,  
And one a heavy mace to flun the foe. *Dryden.*

POLICAT. *n. f.* [*Pole* or *Polish* cat, because they abound in  
Poland.] The fitchew; a stinking animal.

*Polecats*? there are fairer things than *polecats*. *Shakefp.*

Out of my door, you witch! you hag, you *polecat*! out,  
out, out; I'll conjure you. *Shakefp. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

She, at a pin in the wall, hung like a *polecat* in a warren,  
to amuse them. *L'Estrange.*

How should he, harmless youth,  
Who kill'd but *polecats*, learn to murder men. *Gay.*

POLEDAVIES. *n. f.* A sort of coarse cloth. *Ainsworth.*

POLEMICAL. } *adj.* [*πολεμικός*.] Controversial; disputative.

I have had but little respite from these *polemical* exercises,  
and, notwithstanding all the rage and malice of the adver-  
saries of our church, I sit down contented. *Stillingfleet.*

The nullity of this distinction has been solidly shewn by  
most of our *polemick* writers of the protestant church. *South.*

The best method to be used with these *polemical* ladies, is  
to shew them the ridiculous side of their cause. *Addison.*

POLEMICK. *n. f.* Disputant; controversial.

Each staunch *polemick* stubborn as a rock,  
Came whip and spur. *Dunkiad, b. iv.*

POLEMOSCOPE. *n. f.* [*πολεμικός* and *σκοπία*.] In optics, is  
a kind of crooked or oblique perspective glass, contrived for  
seeing objects that do not lie directly before the eye. *Diid.*

POLESTAR. *n. f.* [*pole* and *star*.]

1. A star near the pole, by which navigators compute their nor-  
thern latitude; cynosure; lodestar.

If a pilot at sea cannot see the *polestar*, let him steer his  
course by such stars as best appear to him. *King Charles.*

I was failing in a vast ocean without other help than the  
*polestar* of the ancients. *Dryden.*

2. Any guide or director.

POLY-MOUNTAIN. *n. f.* [*polium*, Lat.] A plant.

The *poly-mountain* hath a labiated flower, consisting of one  
leaf, whose stamina supply the place of a crest; the beard is  
divided into five segments as the germander; out of the flower  
cup rises the pointal, attended, as it were, by four embryos,  
which afterward become so many seeds shut up in the flower  
cup: the flowers